

The Library Assistant :

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH GENERAL MEETING.

The March General Meeting will be held (by kind permission of the Chief Librarian, Mr. Lawrence Inkster), at the CENTRAL LIBRARY, LAVENDER HILL, BATTERSEA, S.W., on **THURSDAY, March 18th**, at 7.30 p.m.

The following papers will be read and discussed:—

Associate's Paper: "The Junior Work of Classification." By Miss V. A. AITKEN, *Islington Public Libraries.*

Member's Paper: "The Subject Classification." By HENRY T. COUTTS, *Librarian, North Library, Islington.*

This Meeting should prove valuable to all our members, and especially to those who contemplate sitting for the L.A. Examination this year. The Library is near Clapham Junction Station, and is, therefore, easy of access.

SOCIAL EVENING.

Arrangements have been made for a **Social Gathering** of members and friends in the Lecture Hall of the **Islington Central Library**, Holloway Road, N., on **Wednesday, March 31st**, at 7 p.m. The tickets are 1s. 6d.

each, and include refreshments. Double tickets, which cannot be used for two members, 2s. 6d.; ladies specially invited. The programme will consist of dances, musical items, a sketch, etc., and provision will be made for a small Whist party.

The Social Committee confidently expect a record gathering at Islington. It is hoped that members will make a special effort to attend, and will bring their friends. Early application should be made for tickets, which may be obtained from members of the Council, or from Mr. HENRY T. COUTTS, North Islington Library, Manor Gardens, N.

The Islington Central Library is situated in the Holloway Road, and is easily accessible from all parts of London. It is near to Highbury Stations (G.N. and City Tube, and North London Railway), and is within walking distance of Holloway Station (Great Northern Railway), and Holloway Road Station (Piccadilly and Brompton Tube); Trams from Tower Bridge and Lavender Hill to Highbury Corner; Trams to Highgate and Finsbury Park from Holborn, Moorgate, Aldersgate, and Smithfield Market, pass the door.

NORTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

The next meeting of the North-Eastern Branch of the Library Assistants' Association will be held (by kind permission of H. E. Johnston, Esq., Chief Librarian), at the **GATESHEAD PUBLIC LIBRARY**, on Wednesday, March 10th, 1909.

Programme: 7.0 p.m. Meeting of Committee.

7.30 p.m. General Meeting:—

Member's Paper: "The Weeding Out of Obsolete Books." By A. H. YATES, Sunderland.

Associate's Paper: "The School Library." By J. E. WALKER, Gateshead.

The Gateshead Public Library is situated in Swinburne Street. It contains about 18,000 volumes, and is administered on the card-charging system, with the Cotgreave Indicator for fiction. Facilities will be offered to inspect this successful library.

APPOINTMENTS.

BULLOCK, Mr. F. C., Branch Librarian, Grangetown, to be Librarian-in-Charge, Central Lending Library, Cardiff.

MORGAN, Mr. WYNDHAM, Chief Assistant, Central Reference Library, Cardiff, to be Branch Librarian, Canton.

PADFIELD, Mr. W. O., Chief Assistant, Central Lending Library, Cardiff, to be Cataloguer.

REES, Mr. E. J., Branch Librarian, Canton, to be Superintendent of the Branch Libraries, Cardiff.

All Members of the L.A.A.

NEW MEMBERS.

MEMBER: E. R. Brooks, Patent Office Library.

ASSOCIATE: H. G. Hayne, Hornsey.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

MEMBER: Miss Seaton, Harrogate.

ASSOCIATES: H. Ellington, A. H. Gillgrass, and T. E. Sawney, all of Hull;

Miss Annie Clayton, Miss N. Morgan, Miss Edith Pritchard, Miss A. M.

Sharp, Miss S. A. Thistlethwaite, and Miss Mary Vickers, all of Leeds.

IRISH BRANCH.

ASSOCIATES: T. A. Chambers, W. F. Sturgeon, and Matthew Warren, all of Belfast.

THE EMPIRE AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARY:

The Relations between the Libraries of the Empire.

BY PERCY EVANS LEWIN, F.R.C.I.

Of the South Australian Public Library; late Sub-Librarian of the Public Library at Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony, and late of the Woolwich Public Libraries, England.

Lord Milner recently gave an address at the Royal Colonial Institute on what he termed "The Two Empires," in which he contrasted the Self-governing Colonies with the Crown Colonies and offered a number of suggestive remarks on the relations between the self-governing and the dependent states of the Empire. In the course of an illuminating address he emphasised the ignorance often displayed in one Colony of the wants, aspirations, history, constitution, and economic geography of another, and looked forward to a time when a better understanding should knit together not only the component portions of Greater Britain, but the Mother Country and the Colonies also.

Following Lord Milner's example, I do not think I can do better to-night than to address you on what I may term the two Colonial Libraries—those that are to be found in the

self-governing units of the British Empire beyond the seas and those that will be found, I hope, in the centre of the Empire itself, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. My remarks, I venture to hope, will suggest a train of thought which may be followed up by the younger and more enthusiastic members of public library staffs, who are more ready to take up new ideas and to carry them to a successful conclusion than are some of those who have grown up with, and in some cases have become fossilised in, the public library service in your country. Stereotyped ideas are to be avoided; and in addressing you on the subject I have chosen I shall hope to receive a greater amount of sympathy and to be encouraged by a quicker appreciation of the suggestions I shall offer, than would perhaps be the case were I to address my remarks elsewhere. I shall, no doubt, be accused of suggesting the needless and labouring the impossible; but I should like you to think seriously before you come to a decision, whether the relations existing between our Colonial libraries and the public libraries of Great Britain are entirely satisfactory or likely to further public library work in either portion of the Empire. And if not—then I think you will be prepared to admit that any suggestions tending towards a closer union are at least worthy of attention; even if it be not found practicable to carry them to a successful conclusion. It is the idealists who rule the world—paradoxical as the statement may seem—and I think the idealist in public library work is certainly to be preferred to the man who is content merely to step into the shoes of the former librarian and carefully to place his own feet in the same footmarks.

But before proceeding with the ideas I have to put before you this evening I must preface my remarks by a few observations on enthusiasm—and by enthusiasm I mean patriotism and nationalism as they are to be found in the Colonies. I have observed that there is a tendency in England to belittle on the one side our splendid Empire, to decry the deeds of our forefathers that have made the name of Englishman respected throughout the world, to look upon a healthy patriotism as a feeling to be ashamed of, and to indulge in a mock sentimentalism that is neither fish, fowl, nor good red herring; whilst on the other side there exists a somewhat hysterical jingoism that puts Empire and country before every other consideration and which, whilst indulging in flag-waving as a physical exercise, refuses to take any intellectual exercise at all or to assume the burden of Empire by taking an active part in the defence of the Motherland. The pessimists and the optimists are to the fore and the great middle party whose

interests are menaced by both extreme sections can scarcely command a hearing—even if it desired to do so. In the Colonies, on the other hand, where the belief in the greatness of our Empire is certainly greater than it is in England, and where the voice of the pessimist is scarcely heard, there is a healthy and vigorous patriotism that is unable to understand the perverse passiveness of the great bulk of the English people and the lack of interest that is taken in any affairs that are something more than purely parochial, or are unconnected with the noble art of football. If I were asked to name the country in which patriotism is least thought of, although perhaps most spoken of, I should without hesitation name England; and if I were asked to name those countries where patriotism is most thought of but least spoken of I should point to our great self-governing colonies of Australia and New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa. But not to be misunderstood, it is necessary to point out that patriotism in the Colonies is of a double application. There is the growing and healthy nationalism which draws the people of the Colonies to their own country—the land in which they are settled and in which the majority of them have been born—and makes them place her interests in the very forefront of their affections, only excepting the interests of the whole Empire wherever they may be seriously menaced. In the second place there is the patriotism, which perhaps I may call the Empire-feeling, that takes the larger view and embraces not only Great Britain and Ireland, but the whole of the Empire in its comprehensive sweep. nationalism and patriotism are two great forces silently at work in the Colonies. In England, I am afraid, you have only the former in a very weak and diluted form, save when one or other of the great political parties seeks to wave the flag of the Empire before the deluded electors for its own political ends. Now, Mr. Chairman, I have been very careful not to trench upon politics, as I know that is the last thing you would allow me to do, but I have endeavoured to give you my humble ideas as to the state of national opinion in England and the Colonies in order that I may suggest to those who have it in their power, however humbly, to forward the cause of the British Empire in the centre of the Empire itself. My aim, therefore, in speaking of patriotism and nationalism is a very definite one and one that is by no means foreign to the purposes of your Association.

As high priests of literature, chief librarians and their assistants can materially assist in removing many of the misconceptions that exist with regard to Greater Britain—a portion of the Empire which, in my humble opinion, is destined

to rank in population and wealth with the Mother Country itself—and to help forward the movement which aims at a closer union between all parts of the Empire. The chief stumbling-block against which you will have to fight is the almost invincible ignorance that prevails in England with reference to its great heritage beyond the seas—countries immeasurably larger and richer in all kinds of mineral and agricultural wealth than the British Islands in the North Atlantic. The ignorance that prevails with reference to the vast and wealthy and progressive dominions that are bound together under one King and served by one navy and army is almost incredible, even amongst the otherwise well-informed. Only the other day I was speaking to a presumably intelligent lady who imagined that the Boers of South Africa were a coloured race, not quite black, it is true, but a race of half-castes like the Bastards of Cape Colony. Even now people will speak of the great Colony of Victoria as a town in Australia and glibly talk of the time when the slaves were liberated “in Van Dieman’s Land on the Nile.” I have heard it myself, so I know. And of the subject of Colonial history they are absolutely ignorant. When one turns to such a pretentious work as the “Historians’ History of the World,” and sees how few pages are devoted to the growth and history of our Colonial Empire, one is almost in despair at the amount of spadework to be undertaken before the people of Great Britain are even able to pronounce a sane view on such questions as Imperial Federation, the unification of our Commercial and other Laws, the Defence of the Empire, and a hundred and one other questions of pressing moment; or to understand such a world-wide and important problem as is presented by the intrusion of Asiatic races into the preserves of the white man in Canada, Australia, the United States, and South Africa. How many people nowadays could tell you who Edward Gibbon Wakefield or Jan van Riebeeck were, or what Sir George Grey and a score more imperial thinkers and workers did for the Empire? Colonial history, which occupies so small a space in the “Historians’ History” is more worth attention than the history of Greece and Rome—that might well be left to experts—but the history of our Colonies should be at everyone’s finger-tips. They are the countries of to-morrow and the Europe of the future, and Cecil Rhodes, the great builder of our African Empire, fully recognised this when he provided the Oxford scholarships. And to turn to Colonial geography, how few could do more than name a few of the chief towns and even then perhaps place Durban and Cape Town close together, like the apocryphal missionary who engaged to preach

at Cape Town in the morning, at Pretoria in the afternoon, and at Durban in the evening—but that engagement was made on the platform of Exeter Hall and needless to say was not carried out on South African soil. Or to take the constitutional and political institutions of Greater Britain—not one person in a hundred could correctly describe the constitutional functions of the different parliaments, or tell whether Ontario has one or two chambers, or even whether it possesses a parliament at all, or define its relations to the Canadian Parliament. Or how many can discuss the economic history, or the social history, or those great movements in New Zealand and Australia which are providing lessons for statesmen at home and may presently alter the whole course of events in the Mother Country? My advice then is that library assistants should *specialise* on this subject of the Empire—they should endeavour to get one or more topics at their finger-tips and by their widened sympathy and broadened understanding should try to bring before the notice of the general reader some of those illuminating subjects upon which they will be qualified to direct their reading if they only take the course I venture to suggest. In this connection the examinations of the Library Association could do much. Why is it that the subject of Colonial literature is almost ignored in the syllabus and in the examination itself? With the exception of a few questions dealing with this subject, questions inserted more for the sake of appearance than for the value of the answers they draw forth, the whole range of this literature is ignored. It is to be regretted that the two most important branches of this examination are not further extended. Both the Bibliography Section and the Literature Section should be widened so as to admit Colonial bibliography and Colonial literature as a special sub-topic in the examination, in the same manner as Literature used to be divided into the English, French, and other sections; an arrangement which certainly made this portion of the examination of more value as a literary test than it is at present. Such sub-sections would put an end to the haphazard method in which Colonial and Foreign literatures are at present studied and would be of far more value as a test of the knowledge of the student.

Passing altogether from this topic, I would advance to the main contention of my paper, which is a plea for closer union between the libraries of the Mother Country and those of the Colonies. During my recent stay in England I was struck by the fact that so few libraries attempt to specialise on the Colonies or even to make a collection at all adequate to the importance of the subject; although if we only look at the matter from the social point of view we shall find that they

form not only an experiment-ground for new sociological theories but already offer many sociological and political lessons to the Mother Country. I would not by any means belittle the work that is being done in this connection. Many librarians make a point of getting the publications of the Emigration Office and such Colonial publications as are supplied free by the different governments. But that only touches the fringe of the subject and I would respectfully urge librarians to keep a sharp look-out for publications issued on and in the Colonies, publications which frequently give information and suggest ideas not to be found elsewhere. Things move so rapidly in Greater Britain that it is necessary to be very wide awake in order to keep abreast of the times, and I am fully aware how difficult it is for the English librarian to cover so wide a field as my suggestions offer for his energies. I would therefore suggest that English librarians should make use of their Colonial confrères and should press them into the service. In each Colony there will be found at least one librarian who will be willing to become what I may term a "corresponding member" of any large British library that requests his services, and keeps its librarian posted in the latest movements in his particular corner of the Empire. I feel sure that not only would he be glad to point out useful local publications and Colonial blue-books or parliamentary reports that throw any light upon Colonial affairs, but that he would in some cases be ready to act as an unofficial adviser to anyone in search of information with whom he was put into communication. The work would not be onerous, nor would he be overwhelmed with enquiries, but it would be useful and form a strong link between British and Colonial libraries. Then again in the matter of Colonial bibliography how useful would be the relations thus established. I have lately been engaged on an important bibliography of South African works, the number of entries in which already reaches a total of over ten thousand, and in applying to local librarians for information about obscure publications issued in English towns—works often of much value as historical evidences—I have frequently been put in possession of information of great interest. When I tell you that one gentleman working on a bibliography of Natal has gathered a collection of seven thousand items and hopes to complete his ten thousand before going to press, and that another working on an Australian bibliography has noted over seventy thousand publications, you will see how wide a field there is for co-operation were the movement only initiated in the right quarter. Seventy thousand Australian books and pamphlets! Probably not one in this room could sit down and write out more

than fifty. I have alluded to the Colonial collections in public libraries. I should like to see a special Colonial collection in every large public library, placed in view and reach of the public—books dealing with the history, resources, laws, institutions, and social problems of our Colonies. I am aware that in many libraries it would be impossible to bring all these together on account of the system of classification in vogue, but even here much might be done by properly annotated lists compiled by the Colonial specialist of the staff. I look to the time when each of our larger public libraries shall be a miniature Royal Colonial Institute.

In the premises of that body situated in Northumberland Avenue is to be found a magnificent collection of publications on our Empire. Not only is the only complete collection of Colonial Statutes housed in the building—a collection surprising in its scope and extent—but there are also an almost complete set of the parliamentary publications of each Colony, the official reports, blue-books, and what not. When I tell you that the Parliamentary Reports and Proceedings of Cape Colony alone generally fill about ten large folio volumes annually; the official publications of the Canadian Parliament are contained in about fifty annual volumes, and those of the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia fill another ten volumes each annually, whilst each of our Colonies and their provinces use the printing press in like proportion, you will have some idea of the value and size of the collection gathered together by Mr. Boosé, the indefatigable librarian. The Royal Colonial Institute is, by the way, one of the very few institutions entitled to receive a free supply of official publications from the four quarters of the Empire. I do not mean to suggest, of course, that public libraries can emulate this example, even if it were requisite to do so; but in a quiet and small way much more might be done to make the Empire a living reality to readers than has already been attempted. The chief difficulties are lack of funds and lack of interest. As a woeful example of this lack of interest in the highest ranks of the library world I may perhaps instance the Library of the British Museum. Here is a national institution ranking second to none in the Empire and entitled, like the Colonial Institute, to receive free of cost all the official publications issued in the Colonies, and yet these are not to be found in the catalogue nor are they available to the general public unless special application is made for a visit to the shelves in order to wade through the immense mass of printed matter in search of the particular report desired. I stated that these publications were

not even catalogued—much less set out in contents form—but I should perhaps state that here and there in the catalogue appears an entry of an individual department or parliamentary commission, mockingly staring one in the face as an instance of official apathy, and misleading the inquirer into the belief that it alone represents the full strength of the Museum's collection! If I may be permitted to refer to my own personal experiences in this respect I would like to pay another tribute to the Royal Colonial Institute. I was engaged in preparing a digest of the laws on Asiatic immigration to our Colonies and the United States and it was necessary not only to refer to each individual law but to look up the debates in the Colonial Parliaments and special reports on the subject. At the British Museum I was unable to trace many of the publications desired—the important series of official reports issued by the United States Government was only in part received and only a few figured in the catalogue, and for these I was obliged to consult the admirable collection at the London School of Economics where they are available to the student. For the Colonial publications I was obliged to go to the Royal Colonial Institute. This is an example of apathy in the chief library of the Empire, which with its varied and many interests has not found time to deal with the Empire itself. But things will, I believe, gradually change. Small beginnings are already being made and may lead to great results. Amongst such small beginnings I may perhaps notice a letter which appears in the July number of the *Library Association Record*, in which the Honorary Secretary of the Literature Committee of the Victoria League pleads for an exchange of Colonial and purely British periodical literature between the libraries of the Empire. The idea is good but not likely to be put into practice, because in the first place the average Colonial does not care for dirty and torn newspapers such as leave the usual type of public library, and, in the second place, he has really a first rate supply of English papers in his own libraries. To take an example: at Port Elizabeth six daily English newspapers and all the best illustrated and literary weeklies are taken and this is true, I believe, of nearly every Colonial library in a moderately large town. You will, I think, admit that we do not suffer from any lack of ephemeral English literature as is suggested by the letter in question. But there is, nevertheless, great scope for a private exchange of newspapers between people in England interested in the Colonies and those in the Colonies who have not lost touch with the Mother Country, and the librarian might act as an efficient intermediary between the two parties in order to put them into communication with each other.

Again, what is being done in most of our public libraries with regard to new and up-to-date and efficient maps of the British Colonies? Here I am afraid I must introduce another personal note. Out of curiosity, I must admit, I called at four representative libraries and asked for a good map of Marotseiland showing the latest discoveries in the country. With this result:—In the first case I was shown an atlas fully fifteen years old; in the second, an atlas not quite so out-of-date, it is true, but giving a totally inadequate map of this portion of South Central Africa; in the third case the librarian sought and found an excellent book on the country which should have contained a good map, but alas! this had disappeared; and in the fourth case I was asked where and what was Marotseiland! I doubt whether any institution in Great Britain, save the Royal Geographical Society's Library is up-to-date with its maps—I do not allude to atlases—and surely here is a field for more enterprise in those libraries that can afford the luxury of having a good stock of these indispensable adjuncts to a good reference library. Another indispensable adjunct is the magnificent series of blue-books issued by the Imperial Government. They are a fruitful source of information on almost every topic under the sun. Who is there that reads blue-books save journalists, faddists, and bluestockings? it may be urged. But the fault lies not entirely with the blue-books. Many of them contain a fund of information of so deep an interest that one cannot help reading them from cover to cover. But they are in only too many cases piled up on your shelves or stored away in the basement unopened and unread, and the fault lies in some degree with the powers that are, who do so little to make the public understand what these official publications contain. The local newspaper should always be pressed into this service, and I feel quite sure that if this were intelligently done the despised blue-book would be frequently consulted—if it were not hidden away in the (miscalled) Reference Department, where most people have neither the time nor the inclination to read. Let me impress upon you the necessity of obtaining every Imperial blue-book dealing with Colonial matters—in South Africa such matters as the condition and treatment of the native tribes, the Labour Question, the grievances of Asiatics, the Mining Industry; in Australia, such topics as the New Hebrides question and other outstanding disputes; and in the Crown Colonies, the annual reports of Administrators and special departments. There is absolutely no excuse for not having these, because they are issued free to libraries that apply. In the Colonies, on the other hand, so soon as we become self-governing we are penalised by a par-

simonious Imperial Government which refuses to send us its blue-books unless we pay for them, although the United States Government, which is the cousin of our cousin, is willing to supply us with any publications we desire. Until recently the libraries of the Orange River Colony, then a Crown Colony, were entitled to receive all Imperial blue-books; but so soon as the country was advanced to the status of a self-governing colony the generous tap was turned off and the free supply ceased. Such is the price we in the Colonies pay for self-government! But we have our consolation in the fact that our own blue-books, or white-books, or whatever they may be termed in the different colonies, are supplied gratis to Colonial libraries and they form invaluable records of events and conditions in the Colonies. Not only can the course of Colonial history be traced in them, but they frequently contain most valuable treatises on the native races, their laws, customs, education, and progress, with the information that simply cannot be obtained elsewhere. To take a few examples at random. What can be of greater value than the different reports of the Geological Commissions working in Cape Colony, the Transvaal, Natal, and other Colonies; or the annual blue-books on Native Affairs; or the topographical reports issued by the Government of Egypt; or the archaeological reports issued by the Indian Government; or the agricultural reports issued by nearly all the Colonies; or special reports such as the recent Canadian Report on Asiatic Immigration, the Report of the South African Commission on Native Affairs, and many others? Each of them appeals to a different type of student. Do not despise this source of information, therefore, even though it may have to be obtained at the cost of a few novels; and if you cannot afford to buy such information, at least keep it in view and note it so that you can put your readers on the right track. There is, unfortunately, no list published of official publications covering the whole Empire; but here again Colonial librarians could co-operate with the British Library Association, if only the editors of the *Library Association Record* would open a page for a monthly list of these publications, and so bring English librarians into further touch with their Colonial confrères. In this connection I may perhaps mention the excellent plan that is being generally adopted in Australia, where both the Melbourne and Sydney Public Libraries, and recently the Adelaide Public Library, receive small special grants for the purpose of carrying out an exchange of the state official publications for those of other countries and states. Such a course is out of the question in England but I instance it as an example of the value that is

attached to blue-books in the Colonies. These are a few of the suggestions I would throw out for your consideration this evening, but before concluding my paper I would like to give a brief survey of the public library movement in the Colonies.

It is generally supposed that the Public Library system in the British Colonies is of recent growth, and although this is, of course, true with regard to the more recently settled portions of the Empire, such as Rhodesia and parts of Canada and Australia, it is also true that some of our Colonies had libraries for the use of the general public long before the movement became so successful in Great Britain. In the rapid survey that I propose to take of the growth of the movement in the Colonies I shall commence with South Africa, because it was in Cape Colony that it had its inception. New South Wales might have claimed that honour had the proposals of the then Governor in 1809 been carried into effect but it was Cape Colony that made the first move. The general public, however, cared very little for the stores of literature placed before them as is testified by a passage from the *Travels of Arago* which I will venture to quote. This is what this versatile voyager, writing in the year 1818, says:—

"The Public Library is composed of about sixty volumes bound in old parchment, a very beautiful edition of the Holy Bible, two sculls of savages, and eight or ten weapons of the Hottentots. The Librarian is, as I was assured, a man of great weight. . . . That he certainly is, for he weighs at least twenty stone. To me he appeared massive in every way. Surprised at an application to see the establishment of which he is the director, and flurried, perhaps, by the idea of the importance which that title would give him in our estimation, he could not at first find the keys; and we were therefore obliged to wait above half-an-hour before we could gain admittance. He talked to us about some plans for the enlargement of the place; and when we expressed our surprise—'You must not imagine,' said he, with a consequential look, 'that this is all our stock; we have in a garret half as many more volumes, which the rats would totally destroy if I did not keep an eye on them.' We quitted Mr. Churchwarden-Librarian, thanking him for his politeness. Out of one hundred inhabitants of Cape Town, scarcely two know that there is a public library, so little is it worth seeing and so indifferent is it to them whether they are deemed ignorant or not."

This Library of which M. Arago here writes was probably that which had just been established by Government Proclamation issued in the year 1818, in which it was directed that the funds for the support of the South African Public Library

should be derived from a charge upon every cask of wine passing through the Cape Town market—a charge that would doubtless produce very little revenue at the present time. From 1818 to 1828 the library seems to have made considerable progress, but in the latter year a reaction set in and for a season the Government aid was withdrawn, owing, I believe, to the direct intervention of the Imperial Government. Finally, after weathering a variety of storms the present fine building was opened in 1860 by the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, then known as Prince Alfred. But the nucleus of the splendid collection of books now housed at Cape Town was commenced so far back as the year 1761, when a public spirited citizen, Mr. Joachim Nicolaas von Dessin left his collection of 4,565 books “to serve as a foundation for the public library for the advantage of the community.” I will not weary you with details of our Premier Public Library, save to say that it has been enriched by the donation of Sir George Grey’s famous collection of early-printed books and books in African languages, including not only a Caxton and several examples of Wynkyn de Worde and of the early English press, but also the first and second folio Shakespeares and some exceedingly beautiful illuminated manuscripts from the tenth century onwards, including a fine Book of Hours, once the property of that Royal lover of books—and men—Marguerite de Valois, two Dante manuscripts, and one of the earliest manuscripts of the Roman de la Rose. The eminent philologist, Dr. Bleek, was the first custodian of this collection, and amongst those who have served at the South African Public Library are the poet Thomas Pringle, who was Sub-librarian in 1824, and Mr. (afterwards Sir) John Molteno, appointed an assistant in 1831, afterwards the first Cape Premier.

The public library system in South Africa blossomed to its fruition whilst you in England were blindly groping in the dark. Thus libraries were established at Swellendam in 1838, at George in 1840, at Graaf-Reinet in 1847, and at Port Elizabeth in 1848, and within a short period there was scarcely a town or small village that did not possess its own public library. As Anthony Trollope remarks: “A Colonial town is ashamed of itself if it has not its garden, its hospital, its public library, and its two or three churches, even in its early days.” These public libraries were not, as a matter of fact, free libraries, although they were open in nearly every case to any enquirer who cared to make use of them. It was not until a later period that they became public in the fuller sense of the word. Unlike the system in Great Britain, the libraries of South Africa, and in many of the Colonies, are supported partly by

subscriptions from the inhabitants, partly by a government grant (in South Africa the government grants are in the majority of cases one pound for each pound received as subscriptions), and partly by municipal grants—a fair way of apportioning the cost so that those who use the library most pay the most towards its upkeep. In South Africa, however, only subscribers may take books home, but everyone is at liberty by law to read books within the buildings themselves without payment. In this way no *genuine* student, however poor, is debarred the use of the books. Unfortunately, the great financial depression in South Africa has compelled the Government to reduce their expenditure on libraries, but in times of prosperity the Government expenditure on libraries in Cape Colony has been as much as £10,000 per annum with an additional grant of £9,000 for building purposes. There are about 110 public libraries in Cape Colony amongst a white population of half a million; whilst in Natal the libraries number about thirty and in the Orange River Colony thirteen. In the Transvaal there are eighteen subsidised public libraries and Rhodesia has its own library system worked on a similar basis. The libraries themselves are in every way worthy of the spirit that has produced them. The building at Port Elizabeth cost £32,000 and contains about fifty thousand books, and there are good libraries at Kimberley (33,000 books), Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Bloemfontein, Johannesburg, Grahamstown (20,000 books), Pretoria (24,000 books), Bulawayo (7,000 books), and East London (20,000 books). And here let me state how broad-minded was the policy pursued by the early Governors of the Cape, who on application from the inhabitants of certain towns alienated certain crown lands in order that the proceeds of their sale should be devoted to the erection of town halls, *public libraries*, and kindred institutions. Thus at Port Elizabeth the Public Library became possessed of a share in lands which were eventually, and somewhat shortsightedly, surrendered to the Municipal Council for the sum of £8,000. But here again Colonial foresight stepped in and provided a permanent source of income from the rent of the offices which form the ground floor of the library buildings—an example that might surely be followed with advantage in the Old Country. Over £1,000 per annum is secured to the Port Elizabeth Library from this source alone. It is surprising that this course has not been more frequently followed in large cities where public libraries occupy valuable sites.

In other British Colonies the Public Library movement has proceeded upon somewhat similar lines and I venture to state that you will find in many of the cities of Greater Britain—in

Australia, Canada, and even in South Africa—public libraries equal, if not superior, to those to be found in cities of equal size in the Mother Country. In Australia I need only point to the splendid libraries at Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Perth, where the Governments have done what is seldom done in England—built for the future needs of a growing population. Some very severe things have been said about “brick and mortar” libraries, but here we have brick and mortar plus books, a very happy combination. For my part, however, if some philanthropist were to offer me my choice of a £10,000 building or a £20,000 building, I should unhesitatingly plump for the latter, even though the immediate annual income would be insufficient to fill the shelves with books. Librarians have to build for the future. They are, or should be, the pioneers of idealism, and nothing can be more likely to *compel* people to help themselves or more likely to tempt the philanthropist to make good possible deficiencies in the stock than the sight of a beautiful and generous building under the cloud of a *temporary* dearth of books. I believe it to be a fatal mistake to be too modest in library planning, and, by so being, to cramp the future needs of the community; for after all a large and well-found library building costs relatively little more to maintain than a poor and meagre institution well filled, it may be, with books but lacking both dignity and space. Books will generally eventually find their way to empty shelves, but it is not always that a new building can be found for overflowing cases! Therefore, here again I commend to your notice the ambitious nature and generous designs of the great libraries in many a Colonial city; which have not only books, but room for books and are in addition generally fine specimens of architecture, well fitted up, and pleasing and soothing to the aesthetic senses. With Keats I would say, “A thing of beauty is a joy for ever.”

The public library system in Australia has grown up in a manner very similar to that in South Africa—although it has by no means proceeded upon parallel lines in all the Provinces. Many of the public libraries have been grafted upon existing subscription libraries and kindred institutes, but in some cases these institutes still remain as private concerns. It is in Australia that three of the finest libraries in Greater Britain are to be found. The reason for this is, no doubt, that a large proportion of the population is crowded into two or three large cities which are also State Capitals and the seats of Parliaments and Universities. Thus the splendid blocks of buildings constituting the Public Library, Museum, and National Gallery at Melbourne have cost close upon £230,000.

They are examples of that public spirit, fostered by the Government, which looks beyond the present to the possible needs of the future. The Public Library of Victoria, founded in 1853, is in reality a State Library, like those at Sydney and Adelaide. It is divided into three sections—the Reference Library, containing 168,000 volumes, the Lending Library of 23,000 volumes, and a library that supplies country libraries with selections of books on loan. I believe that it was at Adelaide, although it has been claimed for Melbourne and other cities, that the fine system of travelling libraries, now so general in Australia and the United States, was first instituted, or at any rate first brought within the range of practical application. These collections of books sent periodically to institutions and districts applying for them are a great boon to people living in the less populated districts; and certainly form a legitimate branch of library activity in all central libraries directly subsidised by the State, with the avowed object of performing duties useful to the community as a whole. It is indeed a sad defect in the public library law of Great Britain that no adequate provision has been made for those dwelling in the rural districts of Great Britain. The number of libraries in Victoria receiving Government subsidies is three hundred and twenty-four, and they contain upwards of half a million books. Amongst the larger may be mentioned those at Ballarat (10,000 volumes) founded in 1878; Castlemaine, founded in 1855; Geelong, founded in 1854 and costing some £20,000; Sandhurst (11,000 volumes), founded in 1854; and Stawell, founded in 1858. In Melbourne itself in addition to the Public Library there are a number of public and semi-public libraries, including the fine Commonwealth Patent Office Library, of 60,000 volumes, open free to the public.

The State Library of the sister colony of New South Wales was established in 1869, when the books of the former Australian Subscription Library were purchased by the Government. It contains nearly 180,000 volumes and is also divided into three separate sections; the Reference and Lending Departments being in different buildings. The staff in addition to their other duties administer the Copyright Acts, edit the Historical Records, and perform the administrative work in connection with the Board of International Exchanges. The Municipality Act of 1867 grants powers for the establishment of free libraries. Under this act any municipality is entitled to a grant of £200 from the Government, for the purchase of books, if the population be over one thousand, and £100 if it exceed three hundred persons. The number of subsidised libraries in the State is 375 and these contain about 500,000

volumes. Many of these libraries are attached to schools of art and technical institutes; a system very generally adopted in the neighbouring Colony of Queensland where the public library movement is more backward than in other portions of the Continent. Yet there are ninety-one libraries and institutes receiving government grants and the Public Library of Brisbane will probably rival in the course of time those in the other state capitals.

In South Australia the public library system centres round the splendid group of buildings at Adelaide, known as the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of South Australia; all intimately connected with each other and under the same board of management. These buildings when completed will cost £100,000 and the Government are now engaged upon the erection of the Eastern Wing of the Public Library block. Here again, as in Melbourne and Sydney, the lending section is in a different building. The Library Staff also carries out the Copyright Acts, the International Exchange of Official Publications, and the supply of books to country libraries.

In Western Australia the library founded at Perth in 1887 has already a collection of 60,000 volumes, and there also the Public Library system has taken a strong hold. In Tasmania there are efficient libraries at Hobart and Launceston. New Zealand has no State Library like those in the Australian capitals; but there is a number of rate-supported institutions and subsidised libraries, of which there are three hundred and four in the Colony, containing nearly 420,000 volumes. Those at Wellington, Dunedin, Christchurch, and Auckland are among the best. Nor must the fact be overlooked that in the majority of British Colonies there are generally large and efficient libraries attached to the various Houses of Parliament. Those at Cape Town, Maritzburg, and Pretoria, in South Africa; at Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney in Australia; at Ottawa, Halifax, Victoria, Toronto, and Charlotte Town, in the Dominion of Canada; at St. John's in Newfoundland; at Wellington in New Zealand; and at Hong Kong in the Far East, may be specially mentioned. The majority of these, though, of course, mainly for official use, like your own Colonial Office Library and Foreign Office Library in England, are easily accessible to the accredited student in search of information. In addition such semi-public institutions as the McGill University Library at Montreal, the Laval College Library at Quebec, the libraries of the Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Otago Universities, the library of the Rhodes University College at Grahamstown, where the authorities have intimated their willingness to forward books to

students in Cape Colony under proper guarantee; and the libraries of the various learned societies, such as the Law Society of Upper Canada, the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, the Royal Society of Victoria, and several others, should not be overlooked.

From the foregoing rapid survey of Australasian Libraries you will see that the public library movement has obtained a very strong hold in the Antipodes. There are close upon 1,400 subsidised libraries in the Australasian Colonies, containing probably more than two million books. The majority of these, like those in South Africa, are, it is true, very small and only serve the needs of a scattered rural population, but how different is the state of things from that which is to be found in rural England, where the public libraries number, perhaps, half a dozen all told. And the great majority of our Colonial public libraries have been founded by the people for the people. Public-spirited governments have generously helped the movement by liberal grants in aid, the municipalities have also done their share in the work, but it is seldom that outside financial aid has come from generous millionaires. There are, of course, several notable exceptions; but as a rule donations from private benefactors have generally taken the form of fine collections of books, and grants for the purchase of books. How much greater then is the credit due to those who have founded, built, furnished, and supported these libraries, than if they had been built by the instrumentality of a millionaire's donation?

I am not personally acquainted with the library system in Canada; but there are close upon five hundred libraries in the Dominion, many of which are rate-supported. Although a Public Circulating Library was established at Quebec in 1779, it was not until the year 1882 that a Free Library Act was adopted in the Dominion — a statute which has been most largely availed of in the Province of Ontario. I have only to instance the fine libraries at Toronto (100,000 books), Winnipeg, Victoria (British Columbia), and Hamilton, to show that the Canadians, like their cousins across the border, are fully alive to the importance of the movement. In other outlying portions of the Empire, too, the movement has been actively forwarded. In the West Indies, the Institute of Jamaica contains a fine selection of books, and the public libraries of Granada, established as far back as 1846, and Trinidad, established in 1851, are good examples of what has been done in that portion of the Empire. In Ceylon, the Colombo Public Library; in India, the Calcutta Public Library; in the Straits Settlements, the Raffles Library; and in the Far East, the Hong Kong Public Library, are proofs that English-

men in the East preserve all the love of literature that characterises their stay-at-home or Colonial brethren; and I have even heard talk of a possible public library at Nairobi, the administrative capital of British East Africa, where but ten or twelve years ago "the lion was pouncing upon the leopard and the ostriches were solely saved by their fleetness from being trampled under the hoofs of innumerable buffaloes," to quote Mr. Winston Churchill.

In making this rapid survey of Colonial libraries, I may perhaps be allowed to finish with a few remarks on the condition of library work in the Colonies. I believe they compare most favourably with those in England. The hours of work are shorter, the holidays more frequent, the conditions less irksome, and the pay is, I believe, on the whole much better. In South Africa and in Australia men very largely hold the field; in Canada, on the contrary, the woman assistant is in evidence. Libraries in the Colonies are largely free from those tiresome restrictions that offend so many readers in England, and open access is almost invariably the rule. The quality of the work done is, I believe, quite equal to that achieved in England—at any rate, so far as the larger libraries are concerned — and this is the more remarkable because in the Colonies there is no leisured and student class who have nothing to do but read, and the open-air life must be a strong competitor with the study and the school. There are a great many other points upon which I would like to speak did time permit—as, for instance, the admirable system of school libraries that prevails in Cape Colony (one school at Port Elizabeth possesses its own library of over 4,000 books) and the methods by which the travelling libraries of Australia are worked and maintained.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, and ladies and gentlemen, I would again like to impress strongly upon you the need there is for co-operation between the libraries of the Empire. The tools and the material are to hand. Shall it be said that the spirit is lacking? Co-operation is strength. That is known in the Colonies, and sooner or later, I think, the librarians of England will learn the lesson for themselves and unite in their demands for Government recognition. As one who has worked both in English and Colonial libraries, I confidently look forward to the time when the Libraries of Great Britain are co-ordinated on some such system as that which prevails in some of our Colonies, that is, under Government supervision with the necessary adjunct of governmental financial aid. Until that be accomplished your best efforts will be haphazard and unsatisfactory. But that fact is no adequate reason for sitting with folded hands, lamenting the inadequacy of a penny rate

and the blindness of the authorities to the merits of your institutions. There is an old proverb, never more true than it is to-day, that God helps those who help themselves; and I believe that your many activities in library work still leave room for yet more activity, especially upon the lines I have ventured to suggest this evening.

PROCEEDINGS.

FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING.

The February General Meeting was held at the Royal Colonial Institute, by kind invitation of the Council, on Wednesday, 10th February. The members met in the Writing Room at 6.30 p.m., where, by the hospitality of the Council, they enjoyed tea, surrounded by pictures of past and present Empire-builders. The Business Meeting was held in the Library. DR. G. R. PARKIN, C.M.G., M.A., presided over a gathering of about fifty.

THE PRESIDENT (Mr. Benson Thorne) moved the following resolution of the Council in accordance with notice given: "That while the Library Assistants' Association is of opinion that any scheme of registration which involves membership of an association is undesirable, it suggests the following amendments to the Library Association Report on Registration: (1) To Clause 2c, 'That librarians not holding chief positions whose salary amounts to £120 and upwards per annum be eligible for fellowship;' (2) 'That the entrance fee be not levied until the membership of the Library Association numbers one thousand.'"

THE HONORARY SECRETARY (Mr. Berwick Sayers) seconded, and it was adopted unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN remarked that he had been brought up in the backwoods of Canada, where books were scarce and therefore precious. He questioned whether a great quantity of books was an advantage or disadvantage. If there was any advantage, it must be by the help of such men as librarians, trained to be able to point out the best. He wished particularly to urge the necessity of making some kind of ideal for which to work; none had more opportunity of high ideals than the librarian. Teachers worked with books; the lesson of the preacher was supplemented by books; but the man who had books under his thumb had one of the most responsible of positions. Mr. Carnegie used to be in a similar position to himself; but a man forgets changed conditions. Books were so cheap to-day that they were within reach of almost everyone. He himself could undertake with a small sum to buy enough books to make a man

a great man if he really assimilated them. But specialization still necessitated libraries for reference and there would always be the need for libraries which contained the best of everything in literature. The pioneer in America and Canada had not the same difficulties as he had had in his day; some of the libraries in Canada had great boxes of books which they sent out to the remote country districts. He had visited the great legislative library of Washington. He wished he could introduce into England at least one of the ideas introduced there; they had a system of cataloguing and of sending out printed cards to any libraries desiring them. He wished the Bodleian or British Museum would do the same; it would save an enormous amount of work. As to the library of the Colonial Institute, it was almost entirely Colonial, and existed for one purpose—to get the people of England to understand what Empire means. There were nearly 40,000,000 people in the Kingdom who, for the most part, were profoundly ignorant of what they themselves had to govern; and he could not think of a better agency than the public library for helping to do away with this ignorance. The walls of the Institute library showed the great extent of the literature of the Colonies. The importance of having a good selection in every library was evident, and the cause of the Empire could be greatly furthered by recommending Colonial books to readers. He then called upon THE HONORARY SECRETARY (Mr. Berwick Sayers) to read the paper on "The Empire and the Public Library," by Mr. PERCY E. LEWIN, which was necessarily read by proxy, the writer being in Australia. The paper appears on another page.

MR. J. D. YOUNG (of Greenwich) suggested a central bureau in London, to which seekers after Colonial information might write or call. In each of the Colonies a gentleman would act as collator, or imperial bibliographer, his duty being to collect information respecting the Colony he represents, and after "weeding out" unnecessary items, to forward the remainder, either in book or manuscript form, to the bureau.

MR. H. V. HOPWOOD (Patent Office Library) agreed that English librarians and assistants should be kept better informed on Colonial matters, but suggested that, instead of Great Britain gleaning the information from the Colonies, the Colonies themselves should recommend to us what literature to take, and that the librarians in each Colony should make a yearly blue-book or bibliography of the Colony, and forward it to a central body in England, as recommended by Mr. Young.

MR. J. D. STEWART (Islington) remarked that small select lists of the best books published in the Colonies would be very useful. These lists would be kept open to anybody wishing to see them in the

bureau. The books published in England, describing the growth, etc., of the Colonies, were often misleading; to get the full benefit of Colonial knowledge, the Colonial librarians should assist the English.

MR. H. T. COURTTS (Islington) thought it should be a personal duty to keep in touch with the Colonies, and to know more about them. He suggested that all Colonial literature be either shelved together, or that it should all be bound in some distinctive binding, so that it might at once attract readers.

MR. J. R. BOOSE (Librarian, Royal Colonial Institute), after highly praising the paper, said that he had long pleaded with the Council of the Library Association to include in the syllabus of examination, six questions on Colonial literature. It was five years before the principle was accepted, and then three of the questions were devoted to the United States. He could not help noticing that many assistants showed marked ability in answering these questions; but the system, after a while, had been dropped, and other questions substituted. Librarians had a great deal to learn, as in the room in which the meeting was held, was shelved literature relating to all the Colonies, divided into seven groups, and further sub-divided into 64 sections, showing some idea of the vastness of the British Empire. The Council of the Royal Colonial Institute had raised the question of "closed" libraries and decided that the Colonial Institute library should be available to all students of Colonies. In reply to Mr. Hopwood he wished to point out that eight or nine years ago a resolution was moved at a meeting of the Council of the Institute suggesting that Colonial governments should supply lists of publications relating to their Colonies. This was a great success, and such lists now appeared monthly and quarterly.

MR. W. R. B. PRIDEAUX (Reform Club), in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Lewin for the paper, mentioned that, as regards open access, he knew from personal experience that the Auckland public library reference department was open to all readers, even boys. He was sorry to learn that a New Zealand libraries committee had sent a representative to the United States to learn librarianship, and he had been compelled, in consequence, to write to them, and gently protest, that the representatives could have learned equally well in the Mother Country.

MR. COURTTS seconded, and the Chairman, having included Mr. Sayers in the vote of thanks for the admirable way in which he had read the paper, it was carried with enthusiasm.

THE HONORARY SECRETARY, in replying, was glad that the paper had been well received. It would please them to know Mr. Lewin had arrived safely in Adelaide; that he found the Library there excellent, and was happy in his new surroundings.

THE PRESIDENT moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Parkin and the Council of the Royal Colonial Institute, which THE HONORARY SECRETARY seconded, including in the motion the name of Mr. Boosé. After a brief reply by Dr. Parkin the proceedings terminated, and the party was conducted over the building by Mr. Boosé.

SOUTH WALES BRANCH.

At the January meeting, which was held on the 20th, at 3.30 p.m., papers were read by Mr. Charles Sexton and Mr. Fred Bullock. MR. R. G. WILLIAMS was in the chair. MR. SEXTON's paper was on "The Value of Statistics." He pointed out that the neatly-arranged sets of figures in the annual reports of libraries by no means represented the work done; and that it was only those who knew the method by which the statistics were taken who could properly judge of their value.

MR. BULLOCK followed with a paper on "The Essentials of Success in Library Work." A discussion followed the reading of the papers.

During the meeting a letter was read from Mr. Farr resigning his position as Chairman on account of pressure of business, and expressing the hope that the Branch would continue to prosper. MR. R. G. WILLIAMS was elected Chairman, and MR. F. BULLOCK Treasurer.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

The Second Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire Branch was held at the Leeds Public Library on Thursday, January 14th.

MR. Councillor Roberts (Chairman of the Leeds Public Libraries Committee) presided, and others present were Mr. Councillor Conyers, Mr. T. W. Hand, Mr. J. A. C. Deas, and members from Hull, Harrogate, Bradford, Keighley, Barnsley, Dewsbury, and Leeds.

MR. Councillor ROBERTS, in opening the proceedings, said that it was a great pleasure to preside over the meeting, and stated that he considered the position of librarian as an important one and one which required a man of exceptional educational abilities to fulfil it correctly.

MR. H. T. COUTTS (Vice-President of the Association) gave an instructive paper on "Staff Efficiency." He said it was the duty of the library authority to put to the best possible use an income which was not only limited, but often very inadequate for the purposes it desired to accomplish. From the commencement the watchword was economy, but it should be economy in its truest and widest sense. Few library authorities erred on the side of superfluity in the matter of staff; more often they erred in the other direction, which, without doubt, was false economy. If library staffs

were to be really efficient it was necessary that the ordinary rules of business should be applied. From the staff standpoint the business rules were professional knowledge, punctuality, attention to duty, politeness, smartness, and tact. The staff should be so constituted that the duties and qualifications of the members might fit into those of one another, and thus make a perfect system. Each portion of the staff had its duties and responsibilities. The duties should be organised and mapped out day by day, so that each member of the staff would know exactly what he or she was expected to do. Regarding the time-sheet, it was inadvisable that an assistant should work for a stretch of many hours' duration; where it was necessary to cover a period of twelve or thirteen hours per day, an interval of four or five hours was to be recommended. Assuming that the wheels of organisation were in order, it was necessary that the lubricant of good-fellowship should be applied if the machinery was to run smoothly. One of the greatest hindrances to successful administration was the petty jealousy which was too often prevalent. It was desirable that the junior members of the staff should be encouraged by their seniors to take an interest in their work with the idea of bettering themselves later, and that the juniors on their part should be willing to learn and to help the senior staff. Among the means of fostering unity were staff councils and staff clubs. The principal aids by which efficiency might be attained were: a well-educated staff; a sufficiency of officers; a capable man at the head of affairs; a due regard for rules of business; organization of the times and duties of each officer; interest and enthusiasm and good-fellowship in each individual member of the staff; a readiness to learn from others.

During the subsequent discussion Mr. DEAS remarked that the working hours of assistants were certainly too long. An improvement might be secured if librarians would allow staffs to suggest a working table.

Mr. HAND said they had a mission to remove the erroneous idea that the library was something to be tolerated, by making it of the greatest service to the community. He also dwelt upon the necessity of the personal element in librarianship. Miss Harrison, and Messrs. Strother, Ellison, and Sleight also spoke.

The Meeting then adjourned to the Leeds Institute, where Mr. ROBERTS kindly entertained them to tea. A hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. STROTHER and seconded by Mr. SLEIGHT to Councillor Roberts for his kindness. The evening meeting was presided over by Mr. Councillor CONYERS.

A paper on "The Junior School in British Librarianship" was contributed by Mr. G. E. ROEBUCK (Walthamstow), which, in the absence of the author, was read Mr. G. W.

STROTHER. Mr. Roebuck wrote that his intention was not to speak of the Association at all exclusively, but of it as one indication of the tendency on the part of younger library workers to unite in the effort to secure objects beyond the reach of the individual. Nowadays there was a Committee of the Association concerned entirely with technical instruction in librarianship. The day of the need for interchange of ideas was to a certain extent past, but while not suggesting that technical education should be discontinued, certainly it was time that a wider range of practice and responsibility should be pursued. The junior school needed an organised opinion more and more as time went on, and it was high time for junior feeling to assert itself, not in a foolish or aggressive manner, but simply by a genuine desire to see a definite policy advanced and adhered to so far as matters professional were concerned. Hitherto the junior school had addressed itself to the technical details of the calling, and in a manner that reflected great credit, but he suggested it would be a good day for librarianship when the junior school addressed itself to policy on constitutional topics.

The Business Meeting was presided over by MR. STROTHER (the President). The Annual Report was read by the Hon. Secretary and satisfaction was expressed in the fact that the financial year ended with a small balance in contrast to a sensible deficiency last year. The result of the ballot for officers and committee for 1909 was then read:—President, G. W. STROTHER (Leeds); Hon. Treasurer, W. PROCTER (Leeds); Hon. Secretary, J. B. ELLISON (Leeds). COMMITTEE:—Elected: D. Sharphouse (Leeds), 44; J. C. Handby (Bradford), 43; Miss Harrison (Leeds), 42; Miss Chaloner (Leeds), 42; F. J. Taylor (Barnsley), 42; J. G. Sleight (Hull), 41; Miss Mitchell (Keighley), 37; W. C. Smith (Dewsbury), 37; Miss O'Keeffe (Bradford), 35; S. Pollard (Sheffield), 34; W. Townsend (Hull), 34; W. H. Barraclough (Bradford), 33. Not elected: G. E. Tomlinson (Leeds Inst.), 31; E. Hunter (Hull), 21; E. Allison (Hull), 19.

The Rules were then discussed and brought into line with those of the parent Association.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Coutts for kindly coming to Leeds, and Mr. Roebuck for his paper, and regret was expressed at his unavoidable absence. Other votes of thanks were passed to Councillors Roberts and Conyers, to the Library Committee, and to Mr. T. W. Hand.